

Parish of St Peter & The Good Shepherd Bearsted & Harrietsham

A Member of Bearsted Area Churches Together



Newsletter

St Peter's Church, Button Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME15 8NJ

Church of The Good Shepherd, Rectory Lane (off East Street), Harrietsham, ME17 1HS

Parish Priest: Father Geoffrey Pointer: 01622 736100, email: bearsted@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

Catholic Schools in our local area:

St Francis Primary, Queen's Road, Maidstone ME16 0LB (Telephone: 771540)

The Holy Family Primary, Bicknor Road, Park Wood, Maidstone ME15 9PS (Telephone: 756778)

St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

Parish Website and YouTube:

www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Year C

✠ PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD ✠

14th APRIL 2019

FAITH IN FOCUS: WHAT MAKES HOLY WEEK HOLY? Here we are again at the beginning of Holy Week, but what is it that makes Holy Week holy? As we process into Church on Palm Sunday waving our palms or weaving them into crosses, it's tempting to feel that this is all just a commemoration of the past. But if Holy Week doesn't impact on our lives a little more with each passing year, then it really is just a story about something that happened a very long time ago.

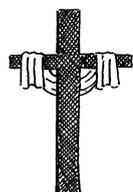
It's the very first 'Palm Sunday' and the excitement is growing like wildfire. Jesus rides into Jerusalem and his followers throw down palms and robes. Only Jesus seems aware that something is very wrong with this triumphant parade. The followers are misguided. They think that Jesus has come like some great military deliverer to overthrow the authorities.

But in truth, Jesus doesn't ride into Jerusalem on a stallion with great might and power, he rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and he comes in peace, humility and servitude. He comes to stand up for what he believes without any hint of compromise or aggression. He comes ready to lay down his life. He comes to show humanity what real love means and he brings the promise of his heavenly kingdom for all those who can realize his teaching. Those original Palm Sunday crowds had a very poor grasp of what Jesus was about, and so it's no wonder that by the end of Holy Week they had switched to shouts of "Crucify!" Like those original Palm Sunday Crowds we celebrate Jesus' life, but we celebrate for the right reasons. Hopefully we are not celebrating someone we think can wave a magic wand and make everything right for us. Holy Week brings into sharp focus what Christianity should be about. Each year we endeavour to make Holy Week holy with greater insight and a greater maturity of faith. Each Holy Week we endeavour to become better ambassadors for Christ.



(Chapel Bell)

TODAY is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Morning Mass at St Peter's will **begin in the parish hall** with the blessing of palms and the Gospel concerning the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem. This will be followed by the procession to church for the Mass. ✠ The Chrism Mass is on Wednesday **17th April**, 11.30am at St George's Cathedral. ✠ **Maundy Thursday Liturgy:** If you are willing and able to take part in the foot washing part of the liturgy please give your name to Deacon Cyril as soon as possible.



THE GREAT WEEK ✠ Please take a Holy Week poster and display it in a prominent window. ✠

Holy Week, the seven days before Easter, comes as the climax of the 40 days of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday. Those who took the ashes on their foreheads agreed to spend six weeks trying to deepen their relationship with God by prayer, fasting and good works. When the ashes are washed off the commitment remains. Christians are called to a daily conversion. We never fully finish our work of overcoming sin within us. Lent recalls us to our task of becoming the baptized people that we really are, and it comes to an end when we baptize new members into our community at Easter. The

Thursday, Friday and Saturday which come immediately before Easter are called the **Triduum**, from the Latin word for "three days". It is not really three separate feasts, but more of a "three-day" feast, an extended preparation for the great event of Easter. That's why, wherever possible, Christians try to be present on **each day**, taking up where they left off the day before. It is like the three acts of a single play. In our celebration of these three days which changed the world we use symbols which both remind us of what happened at the first Easter and help us to understand how they affect our lives today. With these symbols we remember, re-enact and recommit ourselves.

✠ A **Walk of Witness** will be held in Harrietsham on Good Friday commencing at 1pm on the Green near the village store and going on to St John's C. of E. Church. All are welcome to join in the walk.

St FRANCIS' Extended period of Confessions at St Francis', today (**Sunday**) from 4pm.

St PETER'S CHOIR Next rehearsal, **this Tuesday, 16th April**, 8pm.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 14th APRIL 2019
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD (C) ✕

Sun 14th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Luis and Conchita Vecino RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Dallas Sutton RIP
Mon 15th	Monday of Holy Week	7.00pm	✕ Mass: Welfare of Glenn Springett
Tue 16th	Tuesday of Holy Week	10.00am	✕ Mass: Irene Berry RIP
Wed 17th	Wednesday of Holy Week	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: Alexander Oates RIP
		<i>3.30pm</i>	<i>Funeral of Alexander Oates at Vinters</i>
Thu 18th	Maundy ✕ Thursday	8.00pm	✕ Mass of The Lord's Supper: Special Intention <i>(followed by watching until 11pm)</i>
Fri 19th	Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good ✕ Friday) <i>(Day of Fasting and Abstinence)</i>	11.00am	Stations of the Cross, especially for children <i>(followed by Confessions)</i>
		(H) 12noon	<i>Stations of the Cross followed by Walk of Witness</i>
		3.00pm	✕ Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of The Lord <i>(followed by Confessions)</i>
Sat 20th	Holy ✕ Saturday	<i>5-6.00pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>
✕ EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD (C) ✕			
Sun 21st	Saturday	8.30pm	✕ Easter Vigil Mass: Kate and Bob, anniversary
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Margaret Angell RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo

FASTING and ABSTINENCE Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are observed as days of fast and abstinence. Fasting (for those between the ages of 18 and 59) means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. Abstinence (for those aged 14 and older) means that we give up a particular kind of food (usually meat, unless one never eats meat) or drink, or form of amusement.

BEARSTED CHURCHES EASTER EGG HUNT To be held on Holy Saturday (**20th April**) at the Woodland Trust. It is free to enter.

EASTER COFFEE Back yet again (by popular demand): coffee and tea after Mass at Good Shepherd on **Low Sunday, 28th April**. Many thanks to our organizers!

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for April:** for doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes;** for those who have died recently, especially **Roy Dadson** and **Alexander Oates**, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends; for the intentions on the notice board; for those who are preparing for baptism and reception into the Church at Easter; and for our children preparing for First Communion.
- **For an end to gun and knife crime in our homes, schools and neighbourhoods;** especially for the prison officers wounded by the young offenders and for the young offenders themselves, that through those trying to help them they may experience God's love and forgiveness.
- **Anniversaries (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ Terence Murphy, Archibald Cram, Jack Hartigan, Benjamin Rudzinski, Julia Lawrence, June Beavers and Patrick Macklin. ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£388.97** (of which, **£158.90** was **Gift Aided**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Please continue to hand in your CAFOD envelopes: simply drop them into the collection bag at the offertory. ♦ Last weekend's second collection to help cover the cost of the flowers for Holy Thursday and Easter amounted to **£142.20**. ♦ On **Good Friday** there will be a **papal collection for the Holy Places** (see below). ♦ The **Easter Collection** next Sunday is your **personal offering to the priest** (it is not for parish expenses). *Envelopes are available for your convenience.* Along with the Christmas Collection this is the principal way you provide your priest with any income. ☺ Thank you!

HOLY PLACES COLLECTION (GOOD FRIDAY) The global Holy Land Collection is taken up in most dioceses around the world on Good Friday. The collection ensures not only that sacred buildings remain accessible, but that local Christians are able to stay in their homeland. Funds gathered support young families, parishes, seminaries, schools, hospitals and clinics, refugees and small businesses.

FIRST COMMUNIONS Our next session will be on Friday **26th April**. The First Communion Mass will be on Sunday **19th May** at St Peter's with a rehearsal the day before.

READERS and EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS There will be a deanery day of recollection at St Andrew's, Tenterden on Saturday **27th April** from 1pm-4pm. Readers and Extraordinary Ministers are invited to attend.

BEARSTED PRAYER VISITING Week commencing **29th April**. Please speak to Bob if you wish to get involved in this valuable and well-received outreach ministry to our community.

MISSIO RED BOXES Last year, parishioners raised a total of **£408.90** for the Mill Hill Missionaries through their red box donations. Parishioners who have red Missio boxes are asked to bring them in so they can be counted. Please hand them in to Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril.

CHARITY BOOKSTALL There will be a charity bookstall at St Peter's on Sunday **5th May**. Please leave any donations of books in the parish room at St Peter's from the weekend before. Thank you.

LIFE as a REFUGEE in the SIBERIAN GULAGS Bozena Sain came on our recent Fátima Pilgrimage, and offered to speak to us as a thank-you, about her experience as a wartime refugee in the Gulags of Siberia. She was born in Poland during WW2, but when the Russians annexed East Poland, they forcibly deported many thousands of the existing population to the Siberian Gulags. A knock on the door in the middle of the night and 20 minutes to pack was the first her parents knew, and with baby Bozena they were put on a train of cattle trucks for the long and arduous journey. It took 3 months, and the only stops were to throw off the bodies of those who had died during the night from cold and hunger. Bozena's story tells of her little family arriving at the Gulags and suffering the Russian oppression, before they managed to get away overland across Russia to India, where they were liberated just after the end of the war. All are welcome to come and hear this compelling story by one who endured it. Bozena will speak to us in St Peter's Church on **Wednesday 15th May at 7pm**, for about an hour with coffee and cake. Please let us know if you are coming to help with catering numbers. Ring Father Geoffrey (01622 736100) or Terry Kinsman (01622 730119), or sign up on the notice on the parish noticeboard.

GOOD SHEPHERD The cost of repainting our chapel at Harrietsham came to **£2,250**. The work replacing wooden panels and fire exit steps that had deteriorated over the years, including the cost of scaffolding, came to an additional **£2,950**. We are grateful to an anonymous donor for a sizeable donation towards this outlay that has meant that our beautiful chapel will serve us well into the future. We also wish to thank our builder who completed the work speedily, thoroughly and efficiently. God bless us all!

